MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 SEPTEMBER 1980

Iraq-Iran Dispute

Tehran radio carried textually an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement issued on 18 September "in connection with the Iraqi regime's aggression," the first monitored authoritative reaction from Iran on the border dispute since the 17 September decision of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council to abrogate the 1975 Algiers agreement and declare complete Iraqi sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab estuary and the speech by President Saddam Husayn the same day outlining Iraq's reasons for doing so. The statement referred to the Iraqi action only in general terms, saying that Iran "can never accept the imaginary claims of the Iraqi Ba'thists" in connection with the "unilateral abrogation of an agreement with Iran." It made no mention of Shatt al-'Arab or other particular points of contention between the two countries and no attempt to specifically refute the official Iraqi position on the border dispute as detailed by Saddam Husayn but said that if Iraq had had any "good will" in connection with its claims, it would have pursued them with "rational logic and good-neighbor relations." The statement accused Iraq of being a "servile puppet" of the United States and Israel and an "instrument" to carry out their policies. According to the statement, Iraqi aggression against Iran is "in line with that of the United States," and the present "disorder" in the region is an "extension of the provocations" against Iran "in which the hand of America can clearly be seen." The statement also pointed out that the Iraqi aggression plays into the hands of "colonialist governments in East and West," and it concluded by warning that Iran shall "defend its territorial integrity and independence to its dying breath."

Iraq has begun to take administrative steps to support its claim to the entire Shatt al-'Arab estuary. According to INA, the head of the Foreign Ministry Legal Department, Riyad Mahmud Sami, declared that the Shatt al-'Arab is now a "national river" and that the abrogation of the Algiers agreement gives Iraq the "right of full sovereignty" over its littoral lands and airspace and the right to control navigation. Sami said that ships must "pay" Iraq for the right to use the Shatt al-'Arab and use only Iraqi pilots to navigate the river. Furthermore, he stated that as a consequence of full Iraqi sovereignty over the area, Iraq has jurisdiction in all criminal and civil matters as well as the responsibility to protect navigation on the river. INA also reported that the state organization for ports has taken "all the necessary measures to restore the legal relationship" that existed in the Shatt al-'Arab before the Algiers agreement, including the navigation regulations in force at that time. Shipping lines have been advised to take instruction only from Iraqi river pilots and to hoist the Iraqi flag even if they are proceeding to Iranian ports.

Another INA dispatch reported that a foreign vessel flying an Iraqi flag crossed the Shatt al-'Arab for the first time since 1975. The Japanese ship, guided by an Iraqi pilot, was ordered by an Iranian gunboat to hoist the Iranian flag. The pilot refused and brought the ship into Basra. A Defense Ministry spokesman, according to INA, also announced that an Iraqi tanker plying the river had been subjected to light weapons fire from the Iranian shore. No casualties were reported and the defense spokesman made nothing more of the incident.

Islamic Foreign Ministers

The speeches of Moroccan King Hassan and Arab League Secretary General Habib Chatti at the opening session of the Islamic foreign ministers emergency conference on Jerusalem, which convened in Fes on 18 September, were carried live by Rabat radio. Both men reiterated Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's call for a jihad to recover Jerusalem for the Arab world. Opening the session, Hassan said that when he refers to jihad, he does "not rule out the idea of war, because men die in defense of their spiritual values." Hassan went on to say that the Islamic summit to be held in Saudi Arabia late this year "will definitely unify the ranks of Muslims everywhere and will purge the Arab scene of all grudges." Chatti stated that the purpose of the conference is to define the "fields where a full mobilization of the capabilities of the Islamic nation will be made on the governmental and popular levels, so that the jihad will enter its practical stage more effectively than now." According to Chatti, this requires that the conference formulate a "well-studied plan for a comprehensive action consistent with our people's will for jihad." He affirmed that Muslims have abandoned the stage of "resolutions of denunciation and condemnation" and have declared their "categorical commitment" to undertaking "all necessary practical measures" to halt "Zionist aggression." Chatti also said the "whole Islamic world hopes today that the United States realizes the seriousness of its stand," particularly now that it is the "only one" supporting Israel.

Egypt

MENA reported that presidential envoy Sol Linowitz, in a speech to the National Press Club in Washington, said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia are trying to improve relations and that President Anwar as-Sadat "briefed" him on efforts in this direction. MENA adds that "responsible sources" in Cairo have denied "any past or present contact" with Saudi Arabia since the Saudi decision to cut ties with Egypt and reiterated the Egyptian position that if Saudi Arabia wants to restore relations, it must be the one to take the initiative.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL RECEIVES GANDHI LETTER FROM INDIAN ENVOY

LD181558 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister, yesterday morning received the ambassador of India, Jaskaran Singh Teja, at the headquarters of the Revolution Council in Kabul.

During his visit the ambassador delivered a letter from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to Babrak Karmal. In expressing her best wishes, the Indian prime minister said the Government of India is attempting to normalize the situation in Afghanistan.

The letter added that the government will continue its efforts to find a political solution.

DELHI: KARMAL PROPOSES FORMATION OF NATIONAL FRONT

BK190916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Sep 80

[Text] The Afghanistan president, Babrak Karmal, has said that conditions have been created for the formation of a national patriotic front led by the ruling People's Democratic Party. In an interview with a newspaper, Karmal said the party has attained a new look and it has restored its unity on a democratic basis. He said the second stage of agrarian reforms has been launched and Afghan peasants are given a lot of aid by which good crops are expected. Measures are also being taken to improve the educational system, he added.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES CUBAN, GDR ENVOYS

LD182128 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] 'Abdorrashid Arian, deputy prime minister, minister of justice and attorney general, today received at his office in the Prime Ministry palace Raul Garcia Pelacz, the ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, who paid a courtesy visit. Yesterday, he received the ambassador of the GDR in Kabul, Kraft Bumbel, on a courtesy visit.

240 PRISONERS RELEASED FROM HERAT CITY JAIL

LD181906 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] A total of 240 political prisoners of Herat Province were released in the course of a ceremony today from the jail of Herat city, and joined their families in an atmosphere of fervor and emotion.

A number of party and government officials, ulema and elders and a large number of the inhabitants of Herat city participated in the ceremony. In their speeches, a few of the released prisoners expressed thanks for the humanitarian attitude of their national and progressive government, and after repenting for their past behavior promised all kinds of sacrifices toward fulfilling the lofty objectives of the Sawr Revolution and the prosperity of beloved Afghanistan with their people's government.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD181816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic has issued the following statement in connection with the continuation of the Iraq regime's aggression:

In the name of God. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran deems it necessary once again to reiterate the points which have been made repeatedly in order to draw the attention of the Free World as well as that of countries independent of the East and West superpowers to what is really happening in this region.

As we have demonstrated in the past, we are devoted to Islamic ideology and act in accordance with our religious beliefs. It is because of this that we condemn any aggression against any territory. We have demonstrated this not only in words, but in action. As we have condemned Israel's aggressions against Arab territories, that of the USSR against Afghanistan and U.S. military attacks against other countries, we also condemn the hostile aggressions of the Iraqi regime, which are in line with those of the United States. We can never accept the imagainary claims of the Iraqi Ba'thists, which stem from various plots hatched against the Muslim nation's religion and interests, connected with the unilateral abrogation of an agreement with Iran. Considering that ours is an Islamic revolution, motivated by unity and solidarity among all Muslims; considering that such a revolution is neither pleasant to the palate of tyrannical rulers nor is it pleasant to the superpowers of the East and West, therefore the lackeys have risen both on the left and right against us and our divine aim and, wittingly or unwittingly, have become an instrument of our enemies.

We are convinced that once our legitimate voice is heard by the Islamic and non-Islamic nations, the hearts of the liberals in the world will support us completely and will totally condemn the objectives pursued by the colonialists as well as the aggressions launched against us.

Thirdly [as heard], we recognize all our domestic and external problems, including the aggressions launched by the Iraqi regime and the provocations it instigates along the border, as a product of provocations launched by the U.S. superpower against us and our Muslim nation before the triumph of the revolution. After the fall of the shah's regime, when America lost its biggest base in the region, it found itself in a position where it had to harm us and our movement and move any puppet regime which was prepared against us. Consequently, the present disorder facing our region is an extension of these very provocations in which the hand of America can be clearly seen.

Therefore, we call on the objective vision and the awakened conscience of free nations and governments of the world to judge and call on our Muslim Iraqi brothers to be witness; we warn the Iraqi regime that the continuation of aggression against the western boundaries of Iran is the very thing that the colonialist governments in the East and West want; this is the thing that, following our victorious revolution, Israel has been waiting for.

Every single bullet fired in the direction of our borders, every single soldier martyred is ultimately in the interests of the colonialist governments of the West and East and aggressive Israel. Therefore, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime is clearly a servile puppet of America and Israel, having become an instrument for the implementation of their intentions.

Fourthly, we again stress that if the Iraqi regime had any good will in connection with its vague and imaginary claims, then, rather than resorting to artillery and tanks, it would have made use of rational logic and good-neighbor relations.

However, we regrettably note that, as the world is witnessing, Iraq has displayed its hostility towards us for some time; and, contrary to its claims, it has taken steps to [words indistinct] escalate it, so that it may more appropriately demonstrate its subservience to its masters. Little does it know that the Muslim Iranian nation shall defend its territorial integrity and independence to its dying breath.

National Security Council Meeting

LD181716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1635 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that the National Security Council held a meeting this afternoon in the presence of the president and commander in chief. In the course of the meeting, the situation in the west of the country and latest developments on the Iranian-Iraqi borders were discussed.

KEYHAN on Commanders Meeting

LD181435 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Sep 80 pp 1, 3

[Untitled report by correspondent Mahmud Hojrat]

[Excerpts] Yesterday morning, acting Joint Commander in Chief Gen Valiollah Fallahi, accompanied by Air Force Commander Javad Fakuri, Ground Forces Chief General Zahir-Nezhad, Gendarmerie Commander Col Hasan Foruzan and guards corps officials, left Kermanshah by helicopter for the Abuzarr base at Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, where they conferred for an hour on the war situation and how operations mounted by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces were proceeding.

At the conclusion of the meeting, two groups set off for the conflict areas, General Fallahi and Col Javad Fakuri in one and General Zahir-Nezhad, accompanied by Colonel Foruzan, newsman Mahmud Hojrat and KEYHAN news photographer Abbas Maleki in the other.

The two groups inspected all the Islamic Republic of Iran Army positions at Tankab Now, Tankab Kohneh and several other places, and orders were issued by General Zahir-Nezhad to combat unit commanders for the implementation of the correct task operations.

In prolonged clashes at Tankab Kohneh, three military vehicles carrying Islamic Republic of Iran Army equipment caught fire and were destroyed after being hit by Iraqi lackey army artillery and rockets.

Quoting the Sanandaj Guards Corps public relations spokesman, the KEYHAN correspondent stated that all counterrevolutionaries have left Sardasht and fled to the mountains, and that an expeditionary column of revolutionary forces are continuing their advance successfully. The report also states that on 6 September the forces sent to the area of Bayveh and Bashmaq returned to base after an hour-long clash, in which no losses were suffered.

Evacuation of Border Posts

Col Hasan Foruzan, who was recently appointed gendarmerie commander and has been on the border since he took up his post, made the following remarks to the KEYHAN correspondent during a short discussion:

"Because of the fierce fighting, gendarmerie personnel have evacuated border outposts. Seven posts, including the one manned by the gendarmerie company at Khan Leyli and the post at Tab'eh have now been evacuated, since they are in the area where fighting is taking place between Islamic Republic of Iran forces and the Iraqi lackey army."

Casualty Report

LD171719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] According to PARS, the public relations office of the joint operations in the west of the country announced: In the course of confrontations between armed assailants and the forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic and the guards corps, which occurred at 2225 last night in Divandarreh area, the forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic and the guards brothers inflicted heavy losses on the assailants. The same report says that in this confrontation two persons from our forces were martyred; three who were injured were immediately transfered to Bijar hospital for treatment.

Artillery Exchange

LD181758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] According to reports received from the border zone in Khuzestan Province, at 0830 today the forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries began exchanging artillery fire. During this confrontation, the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran succeeded in destroying the [words indistinct] post of Iraq and four tanks belonging to the mercenary Army of Iraq. The PARS correspondent reports that during this confrontation the Saddam Husayn oil well was set alight by the artillery positioned at the [name indistinct] post in Iran. According to the same report the brave champions of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran are courageously responding to the aggressions of Iraqi Ba'th mercenaries.

After this report was received the political and administrative deputy of Khuzestan Governorate General confirmed the report in a telephone contact with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also announced that, at 0800 yesterday, the machinery gathered by the Iraqi Army in order to dig trenches and hide its tanks and artillery was destroyed by the artillery of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The political and administrative deputy of Khuzestan Governorate General disclosed that the security organization of Iraq has employed a number of [words indistinct] in Khuzestan to carry out sabotage operations, paying them 300 to 500 Iraqi dinars. He added that, contrary to the rumors spread by the mercenary Ba'th regime in Iraq, the champions and soldiers of Islam are bravely and diligently guarding the border posts and positions along the south and west of the country and have forcefully stopped the aggression of Iraqi mercenaries. All border posts and positions in the south and the west of the country have the necessary fortifications.

Criticism of Iraq's Stand

JN190802 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Sep 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] After having used all available excuses against the Islamic Republic, the isolationist regime in Baghdad began digging into the archives in the hope of finding a new excuse to support its struggle against the Islamic Revolution. It fabricated the border issue and returned to the papers of the Algiers agreement, which was signed between the two close friends, Saddam Husayn and Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, in its attempt to find something that it could use as incitement against Iran.

Merely as a reminder of the facts, we must say that the agreement was essentially intended to halt Iran's aid to the Kurdish movement in northern Iraq, in exchange for the return of half of Shatt al-'Arab to the status of Iranian waters.

This is what actually happened. Iran ended its aid and the movement collapsed. This enabled the Ba'thist regime to get rid of a problem that caused it many sleepless nights. Under the provisions of the agreement, Iraq returned half of the Shatt al-'Arab to Iran. This is the framework. But as far as the essence of the agreement is concerned, it was founded upon subservience to U.S. interests and on Iraq's decision to follow the U.S. bandwagon as of 6 March, 1975.

Having disclosed these facts, which were distorted by the ruling clique in Baghdad, we ask the regime about other facts, which are bound to offer further information about the Algiers agreement.

1. How come you agreed to sign an accord with a man whom you called a U.S. agent, when you claim that you are patriotic and opposed to colonialism?

2. If Shatt al-'Arab belongs completely to Iraq, as you now claim, how come you granted half of it to the shah, whom you labeled a U.S. agent? Who authorized you to give part of Iraq to another state? Would the Iraqi people accept that? This is, of course, if your claims are sincere. But if you believed then that Iran had the right to half of Shatt al-'Arab, it is not your right now to reclaim what you returned to Iran.

3. You claim that Iran occupies Iraqi territories and that it has not responded to the border agreement. Why have you remained silent for 12 years? Have you suddenly become patriotic, demanding territories occupied by Iran? If these territories actually belong to Iraq, then your failure to demand them is even worse than the crime of occupation. If Iraq has no right to these territories, why then is the ignorant regime now raising the issue, when it knows that Iran is waging a large-scale war against the United States and against its agents, both inside and outside Iran? In whose interest is the incitement of this war?

This is a comprehensive question. We leave it to Saddam to answer. We hereby quote one single sentence from President of the Republic Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's statements in this regard, so that the Iraqi people and the Islamic peoples can know the difference between the Iranian stand and the cowardly isolationist stand: "The dispute over borders among Islamic countries is trivial. All efforts must be directed toward Palestine, to liberate the Islamic land from the claws of Zionism."

Khuzestan Villagers' Support

JN181824 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] Thousands of villagers in Khuzestan Province participated in a mammoth march today in (Iranurmuz). The marchers were accompanied by a large number of Islamic Revolution Guards, gendarmes and town dwellers. The marchers, who were carrying firearms, gathered in a town mosque and issued several statements of support for Imam Khomeyni's leadership and the forces of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The marchers also expressed their readiness to go to the border to suppress the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors and safeguard the land of the Islamic Republic.

AD-DA'WAH PARTY IN IRAQ ISSUES STATEMENT ON OPERATIONS

JN181620 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] Here is the text of a statement issued by the Islamic ad-Da'wah Party on jihad operations inside Iraq:

In the name of God, the Islamic revolutionary tide in Iraq is spreading as a firm riposte to the ferocious campaigns of the forces of blasphemy in Baghdad against the border of the Islamic Republic.

Following are some reports on jihad in proud and Muslim Iraq:

1. An armed clash took place in (Al-Qurnah) district in the Basra governorate between two heroic mojahedin and a group of the blasphemous regime's agents led by Ibrahim Hadi al-Lami from (Al-Gal'ah) in (Al-'Amarah) governorate. Al-Lami is a major in the security force and has been rewarded by tyrant Saddam with a transfer to the Baghdad security directorate. This agent major and three of his lackeys were killed and four others wounded. The two mojahedin withdrew after one of them was slightly wounded and they returned to base safely.

This agent major was buried in (Al-'Amarah), wrapped in a military flag. The governor of Basra and (Al-'Amarah) participated in the funeral.

The people in the area rejoiced upon hearing of the death of this traitor because he was known to be a close associate of Saddam. He hated Muslims and Islam and has participated in persecuting and torturing mojahedin.

By publishing this report, the Islamic ad-Da'wah Party wants to warn the butchers of the blasphemous region of their inevitable doom unless they return to the people's fold and confront the criminal tyrant.

2. In the (Az-Za'faraniyah) quarter in Baghdad, 10 of Saddam's tyrants surrounded the hideout of a heroic mojahed, who repulsed them bravely, killing three and wounding three. He then withdrew to one of the safe bases of jihad.

Other reports say that a mojahed has managed to escape from a detention camp despite his chains. He has joined his brothers to continue the struggle to overthrow the tyrannous rule. We pledge to God and to our innocent martyrs that we will continue the march until the fall of the regime of agentry and blasphemy and the establishment of God's rule on earth. Jihad will continue until victory or martyrdom.

[Signed] The Islamic ad-Da'wah Party, 15 September 1980

ASSAILANTS KILLED, WEAPONS CAPTURED NEAR KUCHEKAHRI

LD181058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, the public relations office of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: During the clashes which took place between a number of assailants and the personnel of the gendarmerie and the guards corps which were on their way to Mahabad to carry out mopping up operations in a village 1 km away from Kuchekahri, seven of the assailants were killed. During these clashes, which took place this week, one RPG-7 grenade launcher, two G-3's, one Kalashinikov and two Brno's were captured from the assailants. According to this report, no loss was sustained by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the clashes.

RADIO REPORTS 'SEVERE CLASHES' IN MAHABAD

LD181826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] Severe clashes between the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and armed illegal groups which started in Mahabad early today are still going on.

The deputy governor general for political affairs of western Azarbayjan, in telephone contact today with the news unit of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Urumiyeh center, confirmed this news and said that in these clashes, one guardsman by the name of ('Abbas Kalantaru) and one soldier were killed, and four guard brothers were injured.

The deputy governor general added that mopping up operations in the Oshnoviyeh area are still going on, and military forces are successfully continuing with their mission.

Urumiyeh--according to PARS, the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, consisting of military and police units and guardsmen brothers, have taken position in all sensitive areas and in various locations in Mahabad. The deputy governor general for political affairs of western Azarbayjan announced this morning that last night the Mahabad area was relatively calm and that there has been no reports of any clashes. He added that only in one spot near [name indistinct] village were the police, army and guardsmen brothers confronted with a number of illegally armed assailants and that as a result of this confrontation nine assailants were killed.

FRIDAY PRAYER LEADER COMMENTS ON HOSTAGES, PREPAREDNESS

LD191052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0935 GMT 19 Sep 80

[Excerpts] At the beginning of today's congregational prayers at the University of Tehran, Fakaruddin Hajaji, deputy of the people of Tehran in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, made a speech. In a part of his speech he said:

[Begin Hajaji recording] With their participation the people should make the Friday prayers greater, more glorious, more widespread, and more powerful so that the enemy will know that not only is the Iranian Revolution not suffering from weakness and slackness, but on the contrary the nation, more angry than before, more powerful, more steadfast is prepared for battle at the order of its imam and that the Islamic Consultative Assembly will never surrender to imperialism in the case of the hostages and that it will remain steadfast in the field of battle.

In this battle we need your assistance. God has bestowed the bounty of martyrdom upon us. We will get ready to move towards the west. At the moment the army is powerful. There is no need for our forces. But listen, get ready, clench your fists, embrace your weapons like brides, be prepared to move so that you may teach a lesson to America, to imperialism and to international, communism that is unprecedented in history. [shouts of "God is great" and "Khomeyni is our leader"]

My point is that the Friday prayers should be our gathering place, that responsible officials should participate in prayers amid the ranks of the people. O people, as a Muslim I announce that the government which we have today is an Islamic government. I swear by God that our government, our Cabinet, our Majlis, our president all are Islamic. Do not allow any friction to appear in these ranks. The imam has said that the differences are not fundamental differences. O God, prolong the life of our imam according to the life of the sun. [end recording]

COMMENTARY NOTES KHOMEYNI APPEAL TO WORLD MUSLIMS

JN182110 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Imam Khomeyni's last appeal has touched the feelings of poor and oppressed nations and given them new spirit and hope to unite and cooperate among themselves. It is an appeal from the heart.

The imam's appeal was made on the occasion of the politico-theological hajj congress. This historic appeal is addressed to the Islamic world. Therefore, it is the duty of the pilgrims to convey the message of this appeal, because they represent true Islam.

The imam's appeal warns all world Muslims of the hardships facing Muslim nations and the dangers of obstructing the exportation of the Islamic Revolution to the world and the attempts by the agents of imperialism and the big powers to divide Muslims and turn them against each other.

The appeal stresses the importance of supporting and assisting the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan and the Palestinian revolution and also the need to spread Islamic culture among Muslims.

The imam's appeal draws attention to the dangers threatening Islam. The appeal points to the real enemy of Islam, namely the arch-Satan the United States, which is trying to carry out its satanic plan of crushing Islam and dividing the Muslim world with the cooperation of reactionary countries which claim to be Muslim. The United States is using its agents in Iraq, Egypt and Jordan to obstruct the exportation of the Islamic Revolution. The border aggressions and violations are best proof of that. These aggressions took place at a time when all Muslims should have been united against the arch-Satan.

The imam has reiterated over and over again that peoples must be considered differently from puppet governments. It is the usurper Iraqi regime that is holding tenaciously to imperialism. As for the Muslim peoples in Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, they are our brothers like all other Muslims. The United States is trying to play its old game of dividing brother Sunnis and Shi'ites and fomenting racial discrimination and national differences, a game which the Iraqi regime is now championing.

In his appeal, Imam Khomeyni siad: I extend my hand to all brother Muslims in the world. I call on them to treat Shi'ite Muslims as their brothers. This view and unity will deprive foreign agents of the opportunity to divide Muslims and will foil the plans of the Satans.

The imam has often pointed to the U.S. danger. But this time the imam warned that the Satan is lurking behind the Iranian borders. It is trying to use the puppet regimes in Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Israel against the Islamic Republic and revolution by having them form a united front against this revolution.

Saddam Husayn's recent contacts in the reactionary countries in the region and the financial aid given to Jordan and Morocco confirm that these evildoers are united in an unholy alliance with the United States. This activity will only backfire on these agents, who will soon meet their final doom.

The worst of all these are the mercenary muftis of Morocco and Egypt who issued their satanic dictums that the Islam of Iran and the Iranians is the Islam of heresy and unbelievers. This is another aspect of the declared war against the Islamic world.

OIL COMMISSION'S MO'INFAR COMMENTS ON OPEC DECISIONS

LD182048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1954 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] Commenting on the recent OPEC ministerial decisions, 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, in a telephone interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, has said:

Following Iran's insistence, as well as that of other OPEC members, Saudi Arabia raised its oil price by $2 to $30.

He pointed out that this price rise and the figure of $30 for each barrel of oil does not mean that the OPEC base price, already set at the maximum of $32, has now been reduced; rather, the figure of $32, agreed upon in Algeria, remains the maximum base price. We have now succeeded in setting the minimum at $30, he added.

Mo'infar then said: Among other decisions adopted by OPEC, no OPEC member is obliged to reduce its oil price and bring it in line with that of Saudi Arabia.

Mo'infar, who returned to Tehran this afternoon from Vienna, continued his remarks, saying: Saudi Arabia was not initially prepared to raise its oil price as it was making this conditional on a reduction of oil prices by others. However, Saudi Arabia's proposal was eventually turned down by other OPEC members and ultimately Saudi Arabia increased its oil prices, without others having to reduce theirs. This is, in fact, a success for this session of OPEC.

SOVIET CONSULATE IN RASHT TO CLOSE 20 SEP

LD181954 Tehran in English to Europe 1830 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] PARS reports from Rasht on the Caspian Sea coast that this morning the Soviet consul in Rasht, [name indistinct], met and conferred with the governor-general of Gilan Province. Towards the end of this meeting the governor-general of Gilan said: The closure of the Soviet Consulate in Rasht was discussed at this meeting, and, as it had been already decided, the consulate will be closed within the next few days. The governor-general of Gilan said: The Soviet consul complained about the slogans painted on the walls of the consulate and about the consulate being called a nest of spies, to which I replied by saying that this is the natural reaction of a Muslim nation against the massacres which are being carried out by the Soviets in Afghanistan. The governor-general of Gilan further said: We consider the Afghans our brothers, and the Soviets must review their attitude toward the Third World countries.

The governor-general of Gilan added: Another topic which was discussed at this meeting was an economic protocol signed between the two countries. According to this protocol certain amounts of [word indistinct] will be imported into Iran through the Soviet transit route.

On the other hand, the spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, commenting on the closure of the Soviet Consulate in Rasht, told PARS: After 28-hour [as heard] ultimatum given to the Soviet Consulate about 10 days ago to evacuate that consulate, the Soviet officials asked for an extension of the evacuation period which was agreed upon in a note. The spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry added: The Soviet Consulate will be closed as from September the 20th, which is the rightful demand of the Iranian people.

VISITING SOVIET DELEGATION TO DISCUSS OIL PURCHASES

LD191146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Sep 80

[Text] Last night, an economic delegation from the USSR arrived in Tehran to take part in the seventh international exhibition of Tehran and negotiate with Iranian officials on the expansion of economic relations between the two countries. The deputy to the economic attache of the USSR Embassy in Tehran, explaining the objectives of this visit, said: This delegation comprises six people; three of them are government officials in trade affairs and three others are officials from Uzbekistan.

This delegation is headed by the deputy minister of trade in the Government of the USSR. Referring to the sales of oil and gas to the Government of the USSR he said: We had previously requested to buy some oil from Iran and considering the importance of this issue, we will discuss it further during this trip.

DETAILS OF 18 SEP BANI-SADR MEETINGS REPORTED

Meetings With PLO Official

JN190825 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Sep 80

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, President Bani-Sadr received Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon, particularly in southern Lebanon; the Israeli plots against southern Lebanon; the threats directed against Lebanon; coordination between the Zionist forces and Lebanese rightist militias; the superpowers' policies in the region; and the Iranian-Iraqi conflicts.

In a statement to a PARS correspondent following the meeting, Hani al-Hasan said that the discussion centered on general issues in Lebanon and (the region).

Asked for his opinion of the declaration of unity between Syria and Libya, Hani al-Hasan said: We will support any unity established between Islamic states.

Talk With Ilam Governor General

LD181714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] According to reports from the Central News Bureau, the governor general of Ilam and the supervisor of the headquarters for mobilizing the oppressed met separately with President Bani-Sadr this afternoon.

Meeting With Sunni Ulema

LD181712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] This afternoon the Sunni ulema of Sistan va Baluchestan Province met and exchanged views with Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president.

According to the correspondent at the presidential office, at this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Vahidpur, the representative of the imam's publicity office in Sistan va Baluchestan Province was present, and different problems of this province, including control of the borders, the security of the area, review of the situation with regard to local feudal people and [word indistinct] and also the strengthening of the gendarmerie and the guards corps in the region and their mobilization were discussed.

According to the same report, the Sunni ulema asked the president to put a stop to disrespectful expressions addressed toward things regarded as divine and holy by Sunnis and those in favor of gatherings, and to take the necessary steps toward establishing an Islamic university in this province as soon as possible.

The president asked the Sunni ulema to attract the masses to the revolution and revolutionary institutions by their guidance so that they will not be attracted by counterrevolution. The president also made positive promises with regard to the investigation of the economic situation of the Baluchi brothers and said that in order to get familiarized with the condition of the Baluchi brothers he will soon travel to the province.

BANI-SADR'S ADVISER MEETS WITH YUGOSLAV ENVOY

LD182002 Tehran in English to Europe 1830 GMT 18 Sep 80

[Text] PARS NEWS AGENCY reports that in a meeting held between the Yugoslavian charge d'affaires to Iran and President Bani-Sadr's adviser, Mohammad Hasan Sheykh Hoseyni, the Yugoslavian charge d'affaires to Iran elaborated on the appropriate field of cooperation between the two countries.

In response, the president's adviser elaborated on the policies of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which are based on independence and self-sufficiency in the cultural, political and agricultural fields. The president's adviser stressed that the Islamic Revolution of Iran ultimately aims at the liberation of the world's people from every kind of domination.

ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS DEPORTED FROM UK REPORTED

JN190931 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Sep 80

[Text] Five more of our brothers, the Muslim students who were deported from Britain following mock-trials in which British injustice was conspicuous, arrived in Tehran at 0200 today.

PARS says that a large number of the believer sons of the capital who participated in the ceremonies of Khomeyni's call last night walked all the way from Tehran university to Mehrabad airport in order to (welcome) their revolutionary Muslim brothers who were returning to their homeland.

Special ceremonies were held upon the students' arrival, during which Hojjat ol-Eslam Hedi (Rassawi) spoke, expressing admiration for and appreciation of the revolutionary steps that our Muslim students in Britain carried out. He also denounced the illegal procedures adopted by the fascist British police.

Envoy to UK Interviewed

LD190927 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Sep 80 p 19

[KEYHAN correspondent's exclusive interview with Iranian Charge d'Affaires in London Dr Seyfollah Ehda'i: "Iran's Charge d'Affaires in Britain Discloses Details of Police Attacks on Students"; date, place of interview not given]

[Excerpts] In an interview with the KEYHAN correspondent, Charge d'Affaires at the Iranian Embassy in London Dr Seyfollah Ehda'i revealed fresh details of the fascist British police attack on the revolutionary Muslim student demonstrators, who were protesting at the savage treatment of the Iranian students by the American police.

Dr Ehda'i, who played an important role during the course of student demnstrations, and who was in regular contact with the students during their detention in prison, alluded first to the form the demonstrations had taken and the manner in which the police attack had taken place:

"In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

"On 4 August peaceful demonstrations were staged in front of the U.S. Embassy in London by Iranian Muslim brothers and sisters to protest the arrest of Muslim students by the fascist American police, and I happened to be a participant in these demonstrations.

"What I saw was a calm and peaceful demonstration; moreover, the police were witness to the peaceful nature of these demonstrations. There was no question of any [forcible] protest or violence, and the students [marched] alongside them [the police]. After a short time I returned to my office, where on the afternoon of the same day I was informed that the police had surrounded the demonstrators. I immediately wrote an official letter to the police, warning that since in this country any group or nation had the freedom to demonstrate, there was no reason for the demonstrators to be surrounded and it was possible that bringing pressure to bear would result in incidents taking place. I do not know whether this letter reached them or not, but news arrived an hour or two later that the demonstrations had come to an end after the police had mounted a vigorous attack, and that a number of students had been injured, with several detained.

"We subsequently contacted the Foreign Office and also put out two official statements in which we noted that the police had made a very big mistake, that in principle the students had the right to demonstrate and that there had been no grounds whatever for an attack on the demonstrations. In these two statements we condemned the British police outright, and we stated that 'the British police have adopted the same methods as the fascist American police in their confrontation with the Iranian student demonstrators, which is much to be regretted.'"

[Question] Mr Charge d'Affaires: In view of the fact that a number of students now being detained have been sentenced to be deported from Britain, what has been the reaction of the embassy and the Iranian authorities to this, and in principle has any explanation been forthcoming on the matter?

[Answer] First, permit us to correct you on deportation issue, since no students have actually been deported yet. The regulations do not allow the courts themselves to deport people; they have to apply to the Home Office with a request for deportation, which according to my information is never refused, but accepted. However, 3 weeks must elapse before a deportation order is put into effect, and during this time the person involved has the right of appeal. In this connection the Iranian Foreign Ministry sent a sharply worded telex to the British Home Office and has made an official protest to the British authorities. I too was asked to request that the British authorities settle the problem in a conciliatory and peaceable manner.

[Question] Given that British policy is allied to American policy, what is the outlook for Iranian-British relations?

[Answer] As regards Iranian-British relations, the British police, even if we do not say the British Government, have made matters worse by following in the footsteps of the American police. It is now up to our government to decide how to handle the matter.

[Question] Would you please comment on the official embassy publication "THE IMAM."

[Answer] Since I arrived we have only put out two issues; a third one is being prepared and will appear shortly.

[Question] As you know, fugitive and counterrevolutionary elements who have arrived here are feverishly engaged in spreading poison about the Islamic Republic's regime, and you certainly know that they hold several meetings each week and issue several publications. What has the embassy done about this?

[Answer] We are sorry when we really see that in a country which claims to recognize the Islamic Republic's regime and to maintain correct relations with Iran, such persons are openly gaining in strength, and this gives us cause for regret. But in reality they are firing in the dark. We are fully aware of and are watching everything they do, and we deem them worthless individuals.

[Question] Doctor, in conclusion, do you have a message or something you want to say which you think we should pass on to our heroic people?

[Answer] My message concerns the issue of the students: We regret that a number of students are to be deported, because those who have been singled out for deportation are clearly those who believe totally in and actively support the Islamic Republic, and so their departure from here will mean the strengthening of the counterrevolutionaries and opponents of the Islamic Revolution. We very much regret this situation, but we must try to fill the places they leave empty.

FARS EDUCATION COMMITTEE APPEALS FOR CITIZENS' HELP

GF141634 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 14 Sep 80

[Text] The education committee of the Firuzabad reconstruction crusade has appealed for the help of the citizens of Fars and Firuzabad in revealing the identity of murderous feudalist lackeys of the United States. The committee asks all those who have witnessed such crimes or have been the subject of any such atrocity to forward their information to the committee.

RESOLUTION ISSUED BY SEMINAR ON PURGING GOVERNMENT

LD130446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 13 Sep 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, the seminar for purging and cleaning up government departments, which was attended by a number of members of the Council of Guardians, representatives of the No 20 Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and representatives of the Purging Council, and which was held in the lecture hall of the Ministry of agriculture, ended its work today by issuing a sixpoint resolution. The text of the approved resolution is as follows:

1. The purging and cleaning-up councils, appreciating the encouragement and cooperation by other revolution structures such as the revolution courts, the Revolution Guards Corps, Islamic associations and other groups, sharply condemn the counterrevolution's plots and its attempts to complicate the purging and restructuring od departments.

2. The purging and cleaning-up councils urge the illustrious clergy, the president of the republic, the esteemed Majlis deputies, ministers, governor generals, newspaper proprietors and heads of departments to avoid the influence of the counterrevolution's evil propaganda and its attempts to create a climate hostile to the purging and restructuring of departments.

3. The purging councils advise the Majlis that is there is a need for revision and amendment of the previous purging bill, approved by the Revolution Council and the Council of Ministers, it should embark on this task as soon as possible.

4. The purging councils call on the Majlis to take steps with regard to approving laws for renewing the fabric of departments and destroying bureaucracy with the aim of speeding up the affairs of the country and abolishing red tape.

5. The purging councils call on the Majlis to endeavor to control the gathering of persons who are to be purged in production and guidance complexes.

6. The purging and cleaning up councils, which day and night strive along the path of revolution and the destruction of counterrevolution, call on the Islamic Consultative Assembly to approve the purging councils as quickly as possible as a revolutionary structure.

BRIEFS

KHOMEYNI PORT INCOME--During the first 5 months of the current year 15.5 billion rials were earned by Khomeyni Port facilities. This is an increase of 10.91 billion rials compared with the similar period last year. During the same period 2.85 million tons of goods were unloaded and 2.75 million tons loaded. The customs department cleared a total of 2.3 million tons of goods during this period. [Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 17 Sep 80 GF]